FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 241 *14 December 1978*

ARGENTINA

Beagle Talks Stall; Mediation Means 'Not Exhausted' B 1
Cubillos Departs for Chile B 1
Special Military Committee Meeting B 1
Foreign Ministry Communique B 1
Military Committee Continues Evaluation B 2
Army Commander Calls Meeting B 2
Official Denies Videla Resignation, Exceptional Measures B 2
Further Clarifications B 2
Air Force Commander Returns From Venezuela Visit B 3
French Business Delegation Explores Argentine Market B 3
Briefs: Peronist Leader Dies; Czechoslovak Trade Mission; Argentine-FRG Agreement B 3

BRAZIL

French Jurist Issues Conclusions on Disappearances D 1
[JORNAL DO BRASIL 12 Dec]
Trucks to Chile Prevented From Crossing Argentina D 1
Briefs: Army Personnel Ceiling; Inflation Figures; Subversives Sentenced D 1

CHILE

Beagle Talks Break Down on Holy See Mediation Details E 1
Further on Breakdown E 1
Chilean Airliner Refused Permission to Overfly Argentina E 2
Authorities Close Two Mountain Passes on Argentine Border E 2
Tromen Pass E 2
Paso Icalma E 2
Justice Ministry Reports on Disposition of Detainees E 2
Spokesmen Deny Banzer Involvement in Coup Attempt E 2
[EL DIARIO 10 Dec]

COLOMBIA

Agreement on Drug Traffic Signed With Venezuela F 1
Foreign Minister's Comments F 1
CP Blames Rightists for Attack on Party's Offices F 1
Nine ELN Members Arrested, Charged With Kidnaping F 1
[EL ESPECTADOR 10 Dec]
EL ESPECTADOR Printers Go On Strike F 2
UTC Withdraws From National Wage Council F 2

VENEZUELA

Ten-Percent Increase in Oil Prices Will Be Sought L 1
PETROVEN Increases Sales to Nontraditional Clients L 1
[EL UNIVERSAL 8 Dec]
Makeup of Next Supreme Electoral Council Announced L 1
MAS Proposes Release of All Political Prisoners L 2
Nicaraguan Refugees To Arrive From Colombia L 2
EL NACIONAL Criticizes U.S. Latin America Diplomacy [2 Dec] L 2
Swiss Embassy in Caracas Attacked, Robbed L 3

MEXICO

Oil Purchase Agreement Signed With France M 1
New Italian Envoy Discusses Possible Oil Purchases M 1
Chamber of Mining Reports on Mining Industry Income M 1

PANAMA

FRAMPO To File Suit Against Political Parties Law N 1
Commentators Predict Noriega's Sacking as Chief of G-2 N 1
Officials Discuss Problem of Shantytowns in Canal Zone N 2
[LA REPUBLICA 11 Dec]
Panama Province Governor Comments [LA REPUBLICA 12 Dec] N 2
Journalist Asks Greater U.S. Aid for Antidrug Efforts N 3
[MATUTINO 13 Dec]

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Radio Reloj Reports Sandinist-National Guard Clash at Border P 1
Penas Blancas Evacuation Contemplated P 1
Civil Guard Involvement Denied P 1
'Juan Santamaria Brigades' Organized To Fight Somoza P 1
[LA NACION 7 Dec]
Newsmen Protest Carazo's Treatment of Colleague P 2
[LA NACION 9 Dec]
LA NACION Reminds President To Respect Media [9 Dec] P 4
Briefs: Cost of Fuel Imports; Malaria Cases Reported P 5

EL SALVADOR

Foreign Minister Comments on Requests for Safeconducts P 5
President Will Not Negotiate With FARN Kidnapers P 5
Strike Resolved at Kidnaped Japanese Executive's Factory P 6

GUATEMALA

Government Communique Rejecting UN Belize Ruling P 6
[DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA 7 Dec]
Union Leader Killed, Lawyer Wounded in Terrorist Attacks P 7
Congress Commutes Sentences of Common Criminals P 7
Briefs: New Reconstruction Committee Chief P 8

HONDURAS

Economy Minister Terms BCIE Meeting 'Fruitful' P 8
Briefs: New Airport P 8

NICARAGUA

Official Reports Fighting Near Border on Costa Rican Side P 8
Shooting Continues Along Border P 9
New Group of Political Prisoners To Be Released P 9
Chamber of Deputies Approves Amnesty Bill P 10
Reaction to Somoza's Amnesty Bill Noted P 10
Somoza Discusses U.S. Stand on Crisis, Plebiscite P 11
Sandinist Front Announces Break With FAO P 12
FSLN Communique Raps U.S. Intervention P 12
Tunnerman Accuses Somoza of Plotting Against Group of 12 P 12
FSLN Issues War Bulletin on Recent Activities P 13
National Guard Major Killed During Attack in Managua P 14
Further Report on Officer's Death P 15
MDN Claims U.S. To Renew Financial Aid to Somoza P 15
Senate Approves Bill on Fund Transfer [NOVEDADES 7 Dec] P 15
Briefs: Coffee Rust Eradication Campaign P 16

CUBA

Commentary Dwells on Alleged U.S. Rights Violations Q 1
Economic Talks With French End; Document Signed Q 2
Iraqi Revolutionary Council Leader Arrives in Havana Q 2
Military Delegation From Iraq Leaves for Home Q 2
Spanish Delegation To Discuss Trade Agreement Q 2
Angolan Bank Governor Visits Santiago de Cuba Q 3
Delegation Meets Guyana's PNC Leadership Q 3
Activities Reported Q 3
Roca, Machado Ventura Chair Meeting of Marxist-Leninists Q 3
INDER Leader Meets With Panamanian Counterpart Q 4
Text Given of Communique on Malmierca's Afghanistan Visit Q 4
[cross-reference]
Briefs: Sugar Harvest News; Alejo Carpentier in Spain Q 4

OTHER COUNTRIES

BOLIVIA

Leftists React to President Padilla's AFP Interview V 1

ECUADOR

Abdon Calderon's Daughter Appointed Party Leader V 1

PERU

Economy Minister Reports Wage Increases in 1979 V 1

BEAGLE TALKS STALL; MEDIATION MEANS 'NOT EXHAUSTED'

Cubillos Departs for Chile

PY131331Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1521 GMT 13 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Dec (NA)--The Iberia flight on which Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos is returning to Santiago, Chile, left Ezeiza International Airport at 1220. Cubillos refused to speak with the press.

Special Military Committee Meeting

PY131323Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1252 GMT 13 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Dec (AFP)--According to reliable sources in this capital, President Jorge Rafael Videla called an unscheduled meeting of the Argentine Military Committee, which began at 1205 GMT (0905 local) in the government house, with members of the committee and Foreign Minister Carlos Pastor attending. According to the sources, the matter discussed at the meeting was the Argentine-Chilean border conflict which, in view of the negotiations held during the last few hours by officials of the two governments, cannot be solved in the near future.

Foreign Ministry Communique

PY132321Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2310 GMT 13 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Dec (TELAM)--The Argentine Government announced tonight that the means to implement mediation for the solution of the border conflict with Chile have not been exhausted. The communique added that the government trusts that the two countries will be able to find formulas which will allow the mechanism agreed upon to be put into operation.

The following is the communique issued by the Foreign Ministry:

Yesterday, 12 December 1978, the meeting of Argentine and Chilean foreign ministers took place in line with the invitation extended by our country offering this city for the meeting.

During the meeting, Chile accepted Argentina's proposal that the Holy See be the mediator in the conflict. At the same time, some agreement was reached regarding the procedure of the mediation, and it was acknowledged that the system established by the Act of Puerto Montt is still in effect.

However, the talks did not lead to agreement with regard to the scope of the mediation which was to be requested because the Chilean Government maintained in this regard certain positions which were not in line with the framework established by the two countries in notes exchanged as of 2 November--the framework within which yesterday's meeting was to develop.

This does not mean that the steps aimed at implementing mediation has been exhausted. The Argentine Government, proving once again its desire to solve the pending matter, trusts that the two countries will be able to find formulas which will enable the mechanism agreed upon to be put into operation.

Military Committee Continues Evaluation

PY132352Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2342 GMT 13 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Dec (TELAM)--The current stage is one of evaluation of everything that has been done, the secretary of public information, Col Antonio Llamas, said tonight referring to the negotiations with Chile. He also announced that the Military Committee will continue the evaluation at a new meeting which will be held tomorrow.

Army Commander Calls Meeting

PY140128Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0105 GMT 14 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Dec (TELAM)--The Argentine Army commander, Gen Roberto Eduardo Viola, has called all high-ranking officers to a meeting to be held tomorrow at the Libertad Building, headquarters of the army. Major generals and the senior brigadier general will participate in the meeting.

OFFICIAL DENIES VIDELA RESIGNATION, EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES

PY132350Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2342 GMT 13 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Dec--The presidential public information secretary, Col Antonio Llamas, has termed totally false certain "rumors circulating," including the "alleged resignation of the president of the nation," exceptional financial measures, and fuel confiscation. The public information secretary made this statement during a meeting with journalists accredited to government house shortly after 2015. The presidential spokesman went to the press room of government house to read the communique released a few minutes earlier by the Foreign Ministry concerning the talks held between the Argentine and Chilean foreign ministers.

Further Clarifications

PY140018Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2354 GMT 13 Dec 78 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 13 Dec (AFP)--The new director of the presidential press office, Col Antonio Llamas, has denied supposed stock market rushes and the resignation of Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz--all events related to the difficult situation resulting from Argentina's border problem with Chile.

Speaking about this specific subject, Colonel Llamas said the negotiations with the government of Gen Augusto Pinochet have not been cut off.

In answer to a question about rumors from the country's southern area, Llamas said: I would not speak about a border closure. However, he did mention that there is tighter control throughout all areas bordering on Chile.

The economy minister, Llamas admitted, rejected all kinds of banking speculation as a result of the alleged war spirit which clouded the conclusion of the meeting of the two foreign ministers which ended today.

AIR FORCE COMMANDER RETURNS FROM VENEZUELA VISIT

PY140200Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0105 GMT 13 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Dec (TELAM)--Brig Gen Orlando Ramon Agosti, the commander in chief of the Argentine Air Force, arrived at Buenos Aires metropolitan airport tonight from Venezuela. During his 4-day official visit to Venezuela, General Agosti met with President Carlos Andres Perez and discussed the Beagle Channel conflict with Chile. He also attended the ceremonies celebrating the 58th anniversary of the Venezuelan Air Force.

FRENCH BUSINESS DELEGATION EXPLORES ARGENTINE MARKET

PY130150Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2255 GMT 12 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Dec (TELAM)--We hope to become the leader of European nations in the rapprochement toward Latin American nations and, in view of this hope, we have gathered in this delegation a group of representatives from very important high-level firms, so they can explore the possibilities of the Argentine market.

This statement was made by Jean Boyer, president of the French business delegation, at the end of a meeting held today with Alejandro Estrada, secretary for commerce and international economic negotiations.

He added that French firms are interested in joining Argentine companies in the construction of the west-central gas pipeline, and that the delegation hopes to obtain information about the goals of Argentine industries in order to study the best way to undertake transactions. Boyer also reported that the specialists in urban affairs in the delegation have met with members of the public sector who work in this field and have expressed great interest in taking part in their projects.

BRIEFS

PERONIST LEADER DIES--Raul Lastiri, Peronist leader and former president of the Chamber of Deputies, died in a clinic yesterday after a long illness. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 12 Dec 78 PY]

CZECHOSLOVAK TRADE MISSION--Buenos Aires, 13 Dec (NA)--President Jorge Rafael Videla today met with Andrej Barcak, Czechoslovak minister of foreign trade, who is heading a trade delegation visiting the country. He was accompanied by the Czechoslovak ambassador to Argentina, Vladimir Pavlicek. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1341 GMT 13 Dec 78 PY]

ARGENTINE-FRG AGREEMENT--Argentina and the FRG have signed an agreement by which the FRG will cooperate in the development of the Argentine small mining industry. The FRG under this agreement will provide modern equipment and technicians for the mining industry. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 12 Dec 78 PY]

FRENCH JURIST ISSUES CONCLUSIONS ON DISAPPEARANCES

PY131230Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 12 Dec 78 p 15 PY

[Excerpts] Uruguayan refugees Universindo Diaz and Lilian Celiberti and their two children, Camilo and Francisca, were kidnaped from their Porto Alegre apartment on 12 November by a Uruguayan military-police commando unit of the Antisubversive Operations Coordinating Organization (OCOA), headed by Gen Amaury Prats, with the participation of Brazilian policemen of the Porto Alegre Department of Political and Social Order [DOPS], and were taken to Uruguay between 17 and 23 November.

This is the conclusion of French jurist Jean-Louis Weil. Weil, who came to Brazil to investigate the circumstances under which the Uruguayan citizens disappeared, said: "The police cannot be held responsible for this action, but the two states should be, since according to the principles of international law, each country has to assume responsibility for the actions of its police. Since Brazil was responsible for the Uruguayan refugees, it should demand that the Uruguayan Government return them to Brazil."

Weil is a representative of the International Movement of Catholic Jurists--an entity linked to UNESCO; the International Federation of the Rights of Man, which is active at the United Nations and the UN Council in Strassburg; and the International Secretariat of Jurists Advocating Amnesty in Uruguay, an organization headed by a French judge.

In Brazilia, Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira conveyed his irritation over Weil's remarks. Azeredo said: "I believe he doesn't have anything to do with that. Perhaps if Brazil some day becomes incapable of attending to its own matters... I object to every form of dependency. I strongly support Brazilians and human rights, but I do not support foreign dependency."

TRUCKS TO CHILE PREVENTED FROM CROSSING ARGENTINA

PY132020Y Porto Alegre Radio Gaucha in Portuguese 1545 GMT 13 Dec 78 PY

[Summary] Without any explanation, the Argentine Government has again blocked the traffic of Brazilian trucks headed for Chile. Over 100 trucks are stopped in Paso de los Libres. Transportation companies believe this decision was made due to the disagreements over the Beagle Channel issue.

BRIEFS

ARMY PERSONNEL CEILING--A law enacted today has established the following ceilings for army personnel in time of peace: 10 army generals, 37 major generals, 80 colonels, 1,937 majors, 4,285 captains, 7,000 first and second lieutenants, 35,500 sub-lieutenants [sub-tenientes] and sergeants, and 132,000 corporals and privates. [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 22 Nov 78 PY]

INFLATION FIGURES--The Brazilian Finance Ministry has reported that inflation during the first 11 months of 1978 was 38.7 percent, and it is expected that it will reach 41.6 percent during 1978. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0216 GMT 6 Dec 78 PY]

SUBVERSIVES SENTENCED--Rio de Janeiro, 13 Dec (AFP)--A Rio de Janeiro military court today sentenced 10 persons accused of carrying out subversive activities to sentences of 2 to 3 years. During the same proceedings, the court acquitted seven persons who were accused of being members of the illegal Movement for the Emancipation of the Proletariat (MEP). [Paris AFP in Spanish 1610 GMT 13 Dec 78 PY]

BEAGLE TALKS BREAK DOWN ON HOLY SEE MEDIATION DETAILS

PY131919Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1848 GMT 13 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, 13 Dec (AFP)--Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos said today that the Beagle Channel talks continue to be stalled because of the conditions imposed by Argentina. Cubillos said here that Chile rejected these demands, but admitted that he and his Argentine counterpart, Carlos Washington Pastor, had agreed to ask the Holy See to act as a mediator in the conflict in the southern region of the American Continent.

The Chilean foreign minister returned this afternoon to Santiago following the talks he held yesterday with his Argentine counterpart to designate a mediator in their border conflict. Cubillos said: When the Argentine Government proposed the Holy See, Chile immediately accepted.

In a communique he read to newsmen at Pudahuel Airport, the Chilean foreign minister stated, however, that Argentina imposed conditions for the mediating action of the Vatican, demanding a previous demarcation of the southern region. Cubillos concluded by noting that these demands and others made by the Argentine Government to restrict the action of the designated mediator prevented a final agreement.

Further on Breakdown

PY140046Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0010 GMT 14 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 13 Dec (TELAM-ANSA)--Some demands made by the Argentine Government to limit the action of the mediator prevented a final agreement at the meeting held today between Chilean and Argentine Foreign Ministers Hernan Cubillos and Carlos Pastor, respectively. This statement was made by Chilean Foreign Minister Cubillos on returning this afternoon from Buenos Aires where he met with his Argentine counterpart.

Cubillos told the people to be calm and said that the Chilean military government acted with absolute good faith and, walking on the peaceful path, it has proposed and exhausted all efforts to find a solution on the road of mediation. The Chilean foreign minister did not mention that in the name of his government [words indstinct] Minister Pastor to name the Holy See as mediator between the two nations.

Chile also agreed to specifying the scope of the mediation as provided for by the Puerto Montt Act. Argentina made the condition, however, that the mediation depend on a previous demarcation in the southern zone, Cubillos said. This demand and others with which the Argentine Government wanted to limit the action of the mediator prevented a final agreement, he said.

He reiterated that the meeting was not the last resort because there are other peaceful means open to Chile which are included in the treaty binding on both countries to find legal solutions to their controversies.

The foreign minister declined to answer a question on whether Chile will now resort to the court of The Hague, saying only that he will brief the president of the republic first because he, after all, is in charge of foreign policy.

CHILEAN AIRLINER REFUSED PERMISSION TO OVERFLY ARGENTINA

PY132316Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2301 GMT 13 Dec 78 FY

[Text] Montevideo, 13 Dec (AFP)--Sources at the Chilean national airline in this city reported today that a plane belonging to this company did not leave Santiago for Montevideo today because of lack of authorization to overfly Argentine territory. For the same reason a special flight of the Uruguayan national airlines (Pluna) from Montevideo to Santiago scheduled for today was unable to depart. The latter flight had been hired to carry passengers back to Santiago, Chile.

AUTHORITIES CLOSE TWO MOUNTAIN PASSES ON ARGENTINE BORDER

Tromen Pass

PY131650Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1450 GMT 13 Dec 78 FY

[Text] Neuquen, 13 Dec (TELAM)--According to reports from Chile released today, Chilean officials began enforcing restrictions to international traffic through the Tromen Pass. This pass through the Andes Mountains is located approximately 400 km from the capital of Neuquen at the Chilean border. The restrictions imposed by Chilean officials in their territory affecting passenger buses and private vehicles means that Argentine visitors will be delayed on their return trip at Puesco, a few kilometers from the border.

Paso Icalma

PY131652Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1620 GMT 13 Dec 78 FY

[Text] Zapala, Neuquen, 13 Dec (TELAM)--On orders of the Chilean Army the Paso Icalma border pass has been closed since Friday. Neither Argentines nor Chileans are allowed to pass from one country to the other. The measure was announced by the carabineros chief. This situation prevents Chilean personnel--some 300 to 400 persons--who work in two lumber plants and on highway construction in Argentina from entering Argentine territory to carry out their tasks.

JUSTICE MINISTRY REPORTS ON DISPOSITION OF DETAINEES

PY131829Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1623 GMT 13 Dec 78 FY

[Text] Santiago, Chile 13 Dec (AFP)--It was reported here today that about 1,500 Chileans who have been sentenced by military courts since 1975 have had their sentence commuted and have been sent into exile. According to the Justice Ministry, 1,179 persons have already left Chile. Sources added that the remainder, some 341 persons, have benefited by the amnesty law of 1978. The majority of the detainees were indicted and sentenced by the military government which ousted Socialist President Salvador Allende.

SPOKESMEN DENY BANZER INVOLVEMENT IN COUP ATTEMPT

PY131609Y La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 10 Dec 78 p 9 FY

[Text] Gen Hugo Banzer is not involved in any subversive coup, spokesmen for the former president asserted categorically yesterday, referring to rumors that the private sector in Cochabamba intended to restore him to power. They said that it is not suitable at present to create problems for the government; on the contrary, the constitutionalization of the country should be promoted. They stated that if a few politicians are trying to divide the armed forces, General Banzer will not cooperate in that attempt.

AGREEMENT ON DRUG TRAFFIC SIGNED WITH VENEZUELA

PA131452Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Venezuela and Colombia have signed a joint agreement to fight drug trafficking along the border. The announcement was made by Colombian Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas. He said that the treaty creates a joint committee with specific mechanisms to exchange information to prevent drug traffic rings from establishing themselves in Colombia or Venezuela. Foreign Minister Uribe Vargas said that the greatest danger is that some people might consider Colombia or Venezuela as potential areas of operation.

Foreign Minister's Comments

PA131453Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Colombian Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas has praised the current cooperation with the Venezuelan Government. He was referring to the signing of a treaty to fight drug trafficking between the two countries. He noted that it is a joint effort to curb this type of crime. Uribe Vargas, who is hosting his Venezuelan counterpart Simon Alberto Consalvi, said that with this cooperation agreement we are providing good service to the Venezuelan and Colombian peoples. We place the highest importance on it because we think that if there is joint international action the efforts of the Colombian Government and many other governments will be imitated and will permit [words indistinct] to the restraints on drug traffic, Uribe said.

CP BLAMES RIGHTISTS FOR ATTACK ON PARTY'S OFFICES

PA082103Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1747 GMT 8 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 8 Dec (AFP)--The Colombian Communist Party (PCC) today accused "rightist paramilitary organizations, with the complicity of official sectors," of being responsible for a terrorist attack which damaged the headquarters of its Central Committee.

The PCC said in a communique that the attack, "together with the murder of our party members and the denial of fundamental liberties, confirms the alarming route being taken by the government (of President Julio Cesar Turbay) in which the most reactionary sectors are gaining greater predominance every day."

According to the communique, "civil rights are being boldly trampled upon" with the issuance by the government of a security statute which caused a serious controversy in Colombia.

In this respect, it recalled a recent parliamentary report which confirmed the torture of many university students, "a more aggressive radio and television censorship and a growing militarization abetted by the statute."

NINE ELN MEMBERS ARRESTED, CHARGED WITH KIDNAPING

PA130248Y Bogota El ESPECTADOR in Spanish 10 Dec 78 pp 1A, 27A PA

[Article by Hernan Unas]

[Excerpts] Eight men and one woman, all described as members of the National Liberation Army [ELN], have been arrested by the F-2 on charges of kidnaping Teresa de Jesus Briton Vidal.

The young woman, 18, was rescued by F-2 units on Sabaneta Street in Guadalupe municipality.

Teresa De Jesus Briton was abducted on 14 September on her way to Nuestra Senora del Rosario High School, accompanied by her friend, Marta Gutierrez Galindo, who was released by the kidnapers to notify the victim's family.

Initially, the following persons were arrested in Bogota in connection with the Briton kidnaping: Sigifredo Vasquez Gonzalez, Roberto Mendoza Carreno, alias "Juan, "and Alfonso Abreo Pico. They were arrested while receiving a 2-million pesos ransom for the young woman. They are all in custody at the Carcel Modelo.

Some days later the F-2 captured Pedro Elias Barrera Rueda, alias "El Mono Pedro," Carlos Francisco Lemus Carrasquilla, alias "El Gordo Oliverio," Maria Delia Moyano de Sierra and Harold Antia Fentuche, alias "Hugo." The first three are charged with participating in the kidnaping. Antia Fentuche was arrested while guarding the victim.

Finally, the authorities arrested Jorge Vidal Marquez and Manuel Vence, who have been described as the masterminds of the kidnaping and leaders of the urban network of the ELN, a subversive movement that has operated for many years in Santander Department, where Teresa was rescued.

The authorities describe Alfonso Abreo Pico as the "chief of operations" of the arrested rebels and a participant in other kidnapings in Bogota, including the kidnaping of Dr Heliodoro Carrillo. It was noted that Jose Villarraga, who escaped from the penitentiary during the last prison break there, was also involved in Carrillo's kidnaping.

EL ESPECTADOR PRINTERS GO ON STRIKE

PA130311Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0121 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpts] Bogota, 12 Dec (AFPO--It was reported here today that the Liberal newspaper EL ESPECTADOR of Bogota, the second most important paper in Colombia, will not circulate tomorrow, Wednesday, because printers have gone on strike to demand a wage increase. This is the first time that a Colombian newspaper has been affected by an action of this kind. It was learned that EL ESPECTADOR's management tried to convince another local Liberal paper, EL TIEMPO, to print Wednesday's edition, but the efforts failed. There has been no indication whether journalists and photographers will join the strike.

UTC WITHDRAWS FROM NATIONAL WAGE COUNCIL

PA130448Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--The Colombian social situation, which was acutely strained by a minimum salary debate, became more tense today when the Union of Workers of Colombia [UTC] withdrew from the National Wage Council Six labor unions supported this action.

The crisis was exacerbated by the unanimous rejection of an 18-percent minimum salary increase and the announcement of a labor struggle to attain an increase more closely related to the national situation.

The labor organizations which expressed their intention of insisting upon higher salaries before the government and businessmen are the bank workers, the national association of rural judges, the federation of metal workers, transportation workers and the Colombian teachers' federation.

TEN-PERCENT INCREASE IN OIL PRICES WILL BE SOUGHT

PA122244Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2055 GMT 12 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Venezuela insists that oil prices should be increased by approximately 10 percent. This is the position that will be defended by Energy and Mines Minister Valentin Hernandez Acosta at the OPEC meeting to be held on Saturday, 16 December in Abu Dhabi. On the other hand, Saudi Arabia maintains that the oil prices should be frozen.

PETROVEN INCREASES SALES TO NONTRADITIONAL CLIENTS

PA131438Y Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 8 Dec 78 pp 1, 30 PA

[Text] Of the total amount of crude and petroleum byproducts that Venezuela currently exports, 35 percent is being sold to nontraditional clients, an increase of 10 percent compared to the 25 percent of nontraditional sales the country made in 1977.

Venezuelan petroleum industry sources reported that 1978 has been a positive year in terms of diversification of markets that the Venezuelan Petroleum Company [PETROVEN] proposed at the time of the nationalization of the industry. This does not mean that it has neglected sales to clients that have traditionally bought Venezuelan crude and byproducts.

In 1977 PETROVEN and affiliated operators exported a total of 1,978,800 barrels a day of crude, refined products and liquid gas products. Of this total, 25 percent, or about 507,000 barrels, was sold to nontraditional clients. Although final figures for 1978 are still not available, it has been learned that this percentage has increased to 35 percent.

Although the Venezuelan petroleum industry recognizes the importance of sales of crude and byproducts to the multinational companies that have been buying Venezuelan petroleum from more than 50 years, equal importance has been given to sales to new clients, preferably "final ones," that is, with minimal use of middlemen.

MAKEUP OF NEXT SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL ANNOUNCED

PA121527Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 12 Dec 78 PA

[Text] The next Supreme Electoral Council will consist of independents and representatives of Democratic Action (AD), the Social Christian Party (COPEI), the Movement to Socialism (MAS), the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) and the People's Electoral Movement, a council spokesman has reported. He said that the council's organization is set forth by law which says that the council will be comprised of the five parties which draw the largest number of voters.

Only those which obtain more than 3 percent will have a representative with the right to speak [con voz]. The spokesman said that the only parties that will have this type of representative are the first three since the others did not achieve the required 3 percent.

He added that the election results also affect most parties from an economic point of view. The spokesman said that according to the electoral law, the Supreme Electoral Council shall subsidize organizations drawing more than 10 percent of the votes. He added that the council set aside 40 million bolivars for that purpose, but only AD and COPEI will benefit from the measure because they were the only parties that obtained the established percentage.

MAS PROPOSES RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS

PA140208Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2312 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 13 Dec (AFP)--The Movement for Socialism [MAS], Venezuela's largest leftist party, today proposed the release of all political prisoners in the country. According to the MAS proposal, President Carlos Andres Perez could accomplish this through an amnesty decree. Jose Vicente Rangel, a MAS leader, a former presidential candidate and a lawyer with a long record of defending politically persecuted persons, said that the 3 December presidential election that the opposition Christian democracy won "demands a complete democratization of the country."

He was referring to the use of military courts in Venezuela to try some political prisoners and said that this affects "the normal functioning of the state of law." He recalled that two politicians, Salom Mesa and David Nieves, presumably involved in the kidnaping of U.S. industrialist William Niehaus, according to the government, were elected deputies in the recent elections, which he interpreted as a people's mandate for their release.

NICARAGUAN REFUGEES TO ARRIVE FROM COLOMBIA

PA122318Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 12 Dec 78 PA

[Text] (?Eight) Nicaraguan refugees who arrived at the Colombian city of Santa Barbara will travel to Venezuela next week. This was announced by Cucuta Police Chief Rafael Poveda.

The police chief stated that the refugees are fleeing from the regime of Gen Anastasio Tachito Somoza. He added that the group of Nicaraguans has been granted territorial, but not political, asylum. Poveda said that another group of Nicaraguan refugees will remain in the city of Santa Barbara.

EL NACIONAL CRITICIZES U.S. LATIN AMERICA DIPLOMACY

PA092314Y Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 5 Dec 78 p 4A PA

[Carlos Alberto Montaner article: "Point-Blank: Banana Diplomacy"]

[Text] For those in Washington, Latin America is the orifice of the world. Nothing that happens to us is important on their scale of priorities. The State Department's experts on Latin America are usually people who are ignorant of the language, the tradition, the politics and other mysteries of our historic reality. Only Castro with his missiles and his Afrika Korps has brought about the emergence of Cubanologists, brainy guys who compute the island's gross national product and Fidel's frequent visits to Alejo Carpentier after [as published] learning about his yawns while reading "El Recurso del Metodo."

But there are no Dominicanologists, Nicaraguanologists, Argentinologists or ologists of any kind until a crisis arises and then solutions are hastily improvised, usually with notable ineptitude. The problem is that we are not important to U.S. survival and, therefore, it ignores us. It is just that that ignorance could be fatal (particularly for us). U.S. misunderstanding of Caribbean and Central American coffee- or sugar-producing nations borders on criminal negligence. Yankee immobility in the face of Somoza's barbarities represents, on the one hand, an irresponsible attitude and, on the other, some kind of shameful complicity. [paragraph continues]

They neither understand us nor want to. Kennedy seemed to be the exception, but Kennedy no longer exists. Carter's interest does not go beyond the purely folkloric. He wants to learn Spanish by reading Nacar Colunga's version of the Bible in order to be able to sing "La Cucaracha" with his archangelic family, winding up confusing the King David of the Song of Songs with the one in the "Mananitas."

But let us be fair. We should also accuse ourselves of not knowing how to move in the world of the gringos. Washington is a monstrous tangle of interests, give and takes and clandestine manipulations which are easily penetrable by way of the lobbyists. With a touch of black humor, Antonio Emilio Ornes often narrates the story of the Taiwan lobby. It was a lobbying operation set up in Washington which netted Taiwan many millions of dollars in aid. Part of that money was then used to finance the lobbying apparatus itself, thus making Washington its own extortioner, victim and victimizer, while Chiang Kai-shek, smiling, enjoyed the spectacle. (Judging from recent scandals, Castro seems to be doing something similar, but more subtly, by setting up his own intelligence apparatus within the Cuban-American lobby in order to orient it to his own benefit).

This matter of diplomacy is serious, very serious. The diplomatic profession was designed for times and situations in which interdependence was not an inexorable fact. Diplomacy was such a decorative, insubstantial and fragile activity that the state often put it in the hands of poets. Ruben Dario was not capable of running a barber shop but he could represent his country in Europe. Alfonso Reyes--who would have been a good ambassador before Pericles--entertained himself in Madrid in pleasant gatherings with groups of intellectuals. The same can be said of Neruda, Gabriela [Mistral] or poet Hugo Lindo. Latin American diplomacy is not a serious occupation concerned with international politics, but a poetry contest with decorated coats, lyres and fresh flowers.

In short: We have to create our own Americanologists in order to benefit from the breaches that that society--the gringo's society--opens to us. And we must create experts on our own peoples, experts who are capable of intelligently designing international political projects and of setting coherent objectives. Our international policies and the diplomacy serving it can no longer be an occupation of glorious sonnet writers. Serious, sharp people with something in their heads are needed.

SWISS EMBASSY IN CARACAS ATTACKED, ROBBED

PA131208Y Paris AFP in English 0730 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 12 Dec (AFP)--The Swiss Embassy here was attacked by an unidentified band today which made off with thousands of bolivars in cash, Venezuelan police reported.

The attackers forced the main door of the mission with iron bars. Nobody was in the building. The exact amount stolen was unknown.

(There are 4.3 bolivars to a U.S. dollar.)

OIL PURCHASE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH FRANCE

PA130238Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0029 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Dec (LATIN)--It was officially announced here today that Mexico will sell 100,000 barrels of crude oil per day to France beginning in January 1980, for a period of 10 years. According to the report, the sale was contained in an agreement--renewable every 3 years--which was signed here yesterday by French Minister of Industry Andre Giraud, and Jose Andres de Oteyza, Mexican secretary of patrimony and industrial development.

Magdaleno Saldivar, a spokesman for the Mexican Secretariat of Patrimony and Industrial Development, said that the agreement also established a financial relationship between Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX) and the French foreign trade bank, whereby Mexico will use future oil income to purchase French capital goods and services.

Giraud, who ended an 8-day visit to Mexico yesterday, said that the two governments also agreed to continue to develop French-Mexican industrial cooperation in an effort to establish an equilibrium between the sales of Mexican oil and French capital goods and services. Giraud told local newsmen that cooperation between the two countries will be reflected in increased joint investments, complemented by technological exchanges.

NEW ITALIAN ENVOY DISCUSSES POSSIBLE OIL PURCHASES

FL131855Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish 1832 GMT 13 Dec 78 FL

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 13 Dec (INFORMEX)--Italy can become an important buyer of Mexican oil beginning in 1980. Italian Ambassador (Francesco Stimelli) made this statement after presenting his credentials to President Jose Lopez-Portillo. He said that possibilities exist for Italy to become an oil buyer in the wake of the important discoveries made in Mexico.

When interviewed at the conclusion of the ceremony held at the National Palace, the new ambassador stated that one of his principal efforts will be to balance the current trade imbalance between the two countries which is favorable to Italy. He added that such trade exceeds $130 million, and that areas exist to expand trade considerably. Moreover, he said that Italy can offer Mexico technology in the heavy and electrical industries, and in other fields necessary for Mexico's development. He was asked by the president of Mexico for broad cooperation in this commercial, technological and cultural exchange.

CHAMBER OF MINING REPORTS ON MINING INDUSTRY INCOME

PA100152Y Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 8 Dec 78 PA

[Text] According to the Mexican Chamber of Mining, Mexico will have an income of 52 billion pesos by 1982 as a result of an improvement in techniques for the extraction of metals from the subsoil. The private sector will invest 50 million pesos in mining from 1977 to 1982, 4.8 percent of which will be devoted to exploration, 29 percent to improve installed capacity [capacidad instalada], 50.9 percent to industrialization, and 0.6 percent to other projects. The Chamber of Mining also reported that the exports during the first months of the year exceeded those of the previous period in volume as well as value. It noted that the exports of mining products represented an income of $120 million during the first 6 months of 1977, or 8.3 percent more than the same period in 1976. Mining production increased by 2.2 percent up to March of this year in comparison to that of 1977.

FRAMPO TO FILE SUIT AGAINST POLITICAL PARTIES LAW

PA121200Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 11 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Dr Renato Pereira, secretary general of the People's Broad Front Party [FRAMPO], has notified this station that this week his organization will file a suit of unconstitutionality against the article in Law No 81 that puts at 30,000 the number of members required to register a political party. According to Pereira, this figure precludes the formation of political parties because it is unattainable.

FRAMPO submitted to the Electoral Tribunal today its observations on the draft decree regulating Law No 81 of 5 October 1978 on political parties.

Dr Renato Pereira presented the document to Electoral Tribunal Secretary General Dr Everardo Tomlinson in the presence of FRAMPO leaders Cesar Carrasquilla, Federico Tunon, Vicente Garibaldi, and Luis Arrieta Aleman.

Among the observations made in the FRAMPO document, it is mentioned that the draft's first article demands that each of the organizers of a political party present a certificate of residence to the tribunal. This goes beyond Law No 81, which demands only a declaration of residence. The FRAMPO document recommends that this demand be eliminated and that the one calling for a simple declaration of residence be maintained.

FRAMPO, which is currently being organized, also points out that the electoral registrar's program for the registration of parties in each district should be announced through the social communications media 8 days in advance instead of having the registrar post it on his office door, as established in Article No 13 of the draft decree.

The FRAMPO national council adds in its document addressed to Electoral Tribunal President Luis Carlos Noriega that any complication of the process of organizing political parties should be avoided at all cost, and that in the initial stages of the country's process of democratization, everything should be made clear and simple.

Finally, it is stressed that Law No 81 of 5 October 1978 can neither be violated nor contradicted by any Electoral Tribunal regulation without running the risk of having the competent tribunals [as heard] declare the regulation illegal.

COMMENTATORS PREDICT NORIEGA'S SACKING AS CHIEF OF G-2

PA121917Y Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Dec 78 PA

[From "Comentarios y Opiniones del Profesor Don Lucho" program with Lucho Pimentel and Tonin Cabezas]

[Text] [First voice] This Friday, Lt Col Roberto Diaz Herrera will take over as chief of G-2 of the National Guard, and Maj Eduardo Diaz Herrera--no, excuse me--Eduardo Herrera, Maj Eduardo Herrera is taking over as executive secretary of the commander's office.

[Second voice] And then what happens? First they burned Botita [Colonel Garcia, former deputy commander of National Guard] and now they burn Noriega? Will there be only Herreras at the National Guard?

[First voice] [chuckle] I do not think so.

[Somebody in the background asks one of the announcers if his name is Herrera]

[First voice] No, No. The only Herrera who is my friend is Herrera Campins of Venezuela, who just won the elections in Venezuela, aside from [Panamanian hero] Thomas Herrera, Tommy Herrera. But, yes, this is a newsbreak I am giving you. It is coming along. Sometimes they do not turn out to be so, but sometimes they do. This is included among the changes in National Guard commands along with the institutional changes taking place in this country.

OFFICIALS DISCUSS PROBLEM OF SHANTYTOWNS IN CANAL ZONE

PA122345Y Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 11 Dec 78 pp 1, 8A PA

[By Daniel Jacinto Fuentes]

[Text] The invasion by intruders of the territory known as the Canal Zone has begun, and shantytowns have appeared there even before the Panamanian Government officially takes possession of the territory next October.

The first shanties appeared on the east bank of the canal in an area behind Santa Maria la Antigua University. However, it is believed that they also exist on the west bank towards western Panama City.

This problem has begun to worry persons who are interested in the development of the zone and the authorities who are preparing to implement the new canal treaties. These authorities are aware of this problem. However, according to the authorities, the invasion of intruders cannot be avoided.

This was the expressed and accepted opinion at an important meeting promoted by the Association of Real Estate Owners of Panama, which was presided over by Alfonso Herrera y Franco. The meeting was held in the Americas Room of the Holiday Inn last week. The meeting was attended by Housing Ministry and other government officials, including Edwin Fabrega, director general of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification and executive director of the commission for the implementation of the treaties.

Some of those present stated that the government can prevent the invasion of intruders and the establishment of shantytowns just as the present Panama Canal authorities have done. Edwin Fabrega and the majority, including Jorge Riba, disagreed. Fabrega said that measures are being taken to minimize the bad effects of the shantytowns that do appear. He said that anticipated planning will prevent them from becoming shantytowns or well-known slums.

The prevailing opinion at the important meeting was that the problem is inevitable because it is a social phenomenon that has always existed, even before it had a name. The fact that we cannot prevent this problem and that the canal authorities can is due to the difference in government systems. They have a military regime, whereas in Panama we have a civilian constitutional system.

Panama Province Governor Comments

PA131927Y Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 12 Dec 78 p 1 PA

[Text] The Housing Ministry and the Panama Province governor's office will take action to prevent intruders and their shanties and small agricultural plots from becoming permanent in areas of the Canal Zone. [paragraph continues]

This was stated by Panama Province Governor Ernesto Cordoba, who also said that initial contacts have already been made with Housing Ministry technicians to seek an adequate solution to the problem of the presence of intruders in Canal Zone areas.

Governor Cordoba said the problem has to be solved by Panamanian authorities in order to prevent persecution of the intruders. He said that there has to be a solution of the overall problem, bearing in mind the protection of the canal and its hydrographical basin and the social aspect of families who have sought refuge on that land to solve their problems. The governor said that there might be a definitive answer next week to the situation denounced in yesterday's edition of LA REPUBLICA.

In his statement today, Governor Cordoba said that not only does the proliferation of shanties in the area of the canal, specifically in the sector of Ricardo J. Alfaro Avenue, have to be solved, but also the problem of the existence of agricultural plots threatening the necessary forestation of the Panama Canal hydrographical basin.

No comment on this subject was obtained from Panama Canal Zone sources, but it is expected that a statement will be issued at any moment.

JOURNALIST ASKS GREATER U.S. AID FOR ANTIDRUG EFFORTS

PA140242Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 13 Dec 78 p 6A PA

["Conciencia Publica" column by Miguel Angel Moreno Gongora: "The United States, Panama and Drugs"]

[Excerpts] The United States, whose people are primarily affected by the flow of various types of drugs, stimulants and narcotics into the country, --particularly the country's youth and, frequently, members of its armed forces--has acknowledged the obvious success in control and prosecution activities that the Panamanian authorities have achieved against the illegal trade of this poisonous and criminal merchandise the enemies of U.S. society put into circulation.

Considering the Panamanian authorities' attitude and the way in which their antidrug efforts benefit the U.S. Government and people, I believe that the best way the U.S. Government can reward the Panamanian authorities is by granting a larger number of scholarships, so that more Panamanians can study the most modern systems used in the war against crime in the United States, and so that they may become familiar with all of the sophisticated equipment that the Americans have managed to develop for the detection of drugs, wherever cunning criminals may conceal them. We recently learned that several dogs trained to detect drugs were in our country, but we have not heard anything about our investigative and prosecution departments having these animals, which have been highly successful in this type of activity, at their disposal.

Furthermore, a donation by the United States of the necessary drug detection equipment to establish a detection and prosecution office in Panama would not represent a significant amount of the budget of the U.S. criminal investigation and prosecution offices. This, in turn, would strengthen the barrier to drug trafficking in our country. At the same time, the U.S. Government would be protecting its own people, since it is a well-known fact, and we repeat it, that the U.S. people are the principal victims and consumers of the international drug rings. Not even school children or teenagers escape from this market.

COSTA RICA

RADIO RELOJ REPORTS SANDINIST-NATIONAL GUARD CLASHES AT BORDER

Penas Blancas Evacuation Contemplated

PA131758Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Text] A last-minute report from the northern border informs us that clashes are taking place between the Nicaraguan National Guard and the Sandinist Front at La Pimienta. The public security minister left for the northern area a few minutes ago and it was disclosed that the Civil Guard has hinted at the possibility of evacuating the Penas Blancas border area since armed clashes took place this morning adjacent to La Pimienta, in the southern [as heard] part of the border. The civilian population, especially government officials working at the Penas Blancas border, may be in jeopardy.

Civil Guard Involvement Denied

PA140228Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0206 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 13 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Authorized Costa Rican Public Security Ministry spokesmen today emphatically denied that any armed clashes occurred today in this country near the Nicaraguan border. A report had circulated in Nicaragua which stated that the Costa Rican Civil Guard has clashed with members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front in Costa Rica.

However, high-ranking public security officials said that the rumors were without basis. Costa Rican farmers on the border said that they heard shooting on the Nicaraguan side this morning.

Meanwhile, Enrique Montealegre Martin, vice minister of the interior, tonight denied other reports according to which the presumed clashes between guerrillas and the Costa Rican police were continuing. "I emphatically deny these reports. Everything is normal on the Costa Rican side of the border," he said to ACAN-EFE.

'JUAN SANTAMARIA BRIGADES' ORGANIZED TO FIGHT SOMOZA

PA131728Y San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 7 Dec 78 p 27A PA

[Paid advertisement: "From the Juan Santamaria Patriotic Brigades to All People of Costa Rica"]

[Excerpts] As in 1856, the destinies of the Nicaraguan and Costa Rican peoples are united as brothers in the struggle against oppression and the violation of the sacred right to live in a free and just country. In those days, our peoples--Costa Ricans and Nicaraguans--joined to prevent interference in our domestic affairs by the filibuster William Walker.

Today our nations face the outrages and tramplings of the dictator Tacho Somoza. Once again, our destinies unite in a new, liberating endeavor.

In 1856 Juan Santamaria, the unruly [el erizo], a man of humble birth, did his duty as a patriot and marched north to carry the torch whose liberating fire was to expel the gringo mercenaries.

Today, in 1978, all of our justifiably indignant people are willing to march north, if necessary, to defend our sovereignty and to support the just struggle of the sister nation of Nicaragua.

Today, recalling the heroic drummer Juan Santamaria, we have set up the patriotic brigades that bear his name. Persons of different religions, political colors and sexes participate.

We appeal to the Costa Rican people. We are members of the Juan Santamaria Patriotic Brigades because they are the best and most trustworthy instrument for defending our country threatened by Somoza and his henchmen. We are the best defense because we are not moved by political interests and we have no commitments to those who take advantage of the situation to increase the price of milk, meat, flour and sugar, thus dealing a blow to the already depleted pockets of the people. It is they who are weak in facing Somoza but strong when the issue is to repress the struggles of our working people.

The Juan Santamaria Patriotic Brigades have as their watchwords:

1. To defend the fatherland's sovereignty;

2. To support with solidarity the struggle of the Nicaraguan people;

3. To denounce and combat intervention by foreign forces in the affairs that interest the Nicaraguan people and that only they can resolve.

All Patriots Must Become Interested in the Juan Santamaria Brigades

We know that this patriotic initiative clashes with the interests of Somoza and his allies. We have no doubt that attempts will be made to sidetrack our intentions with lies. The tentacles of Somoza and the CIA are everywhere, and many times their "generous gifts" succeed in buying the consciences of weak men.

For the organizing committee,

Alfonso Villalobos Laurent, labor leader Eugenio Barrantes, student leader Juan Miguel Vasquez, Dr Alvaro Salas, Liana Benavides, Otto Castro.

Responsible signature:

Jose Fabio Quiros Arce, C [identification cedula number] 2-303-687.

NEWSMEN PROTEST CARAZO'S TREATMENT OF COLLEAGUE

PA131304Y San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 9 Dec 78 p 4A. PA

[Resolution adopted by Newsmen's Association of Costa Rica on 7 December 1978]

[Text] After analyzing the problem which occurred between Jose Joaquin Loria, a newsman of LA PRENSA LIBRE, and President of the Republic Rodrigo Carazo as a result of a report printed by that evening paper, the board of directors of the Newsmen's Association of Costa Rica, at a special meeting held on 7 December 1978, established that:

1. Journalism as a profession, as it is understood in Costa Rica, is practiced under the guarantee that ours is a country of laws where no authority can on its own make decisions that are not provided for and approved by the constitution and existing law.

2. Costa Rica is not experiencing a state of emergency but rather is in a state of law. Therefore, one cannot take measures that would be appropriate if the legal system were suspended for reasons of public security or necessity.

3. The newsman is a sensitive observer of events. He very often has to trust the competence of his sources of information since not all information can be verified immediately. However, the board of directors is not endorsing, through this resolution, the report published by LA PRENSA LIBRE, and it reminds the president of the republic that he can present the matter to the honor court of the newsmen's association for a ruling as to whether or not the publication acted ethically and professionally.

4. Newsmen, like all other Costa Rican citizens, are subject to existing law, and the way to correct any error or injury caused to persons or institutions is by recourse to the law, which at no time has been suspended in our territory.

5. The president of the republic has responsibilities to meet, including that of safeguarding national security. However, he must always act in consonance with the constitution and existing law, as he swore to do upon his investiture into his high office.

6. In the case of the reports published by LA PRENSA LIBRE originating with writer Jose Joaquin Loria, the president should have acted with equanimity since he has many means at his disposal to clarify the published account that he considered to be injurious to national security.

7. By choosing the path of highhandedness, and presumably of abuse of his authority as president of the republic, the president overstepped the constitutional bounds of the representative of the Costa Rican people.

8. The order to "draft" newsman Jose Joaquin Loria, forcing him to act against his civilian principles and his will, is an attack on his professional dignity and on his human and legal rights as a Costa Rican citizen.

Therefore, the board of directors of the newsmen's association agrees to:

1. Protest the attitude of the president of the republic and his government in the treatment of a professional journalist, regardless of the arguments which the president of the republic could marshall in his defense.

2. Assure the president of the republic that the board of directors will send to the honor court of the newsmen's association any charge that he might wish to file against the aforementioned publication.

3. Advise the government of the republic that the newsmen's association, the legal representative of all newsmen of Costa Rica, will not permit a repetition of highhandedness against its members and it will take the necessary steps if the government should feel that it has sufficient power to disregard constitution and the law and our civilian and democratic traditions.

LA NACION REMINDS PRESIDENT TO RESPECT MEDIA

PA131558Y San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 9 Dec 78 p 14A PA

[Editorial: "Reply to the President"]

[Text] It is possible that President Rodrigo Carazo Odio is tired from the hard work he has been doing and that his weariness does not allow him to interpret with total objectivity and the necessary calmness those publications and comments of ours which in some way do not coincide with his personal views and feelings.

Our 7 December editorial does not ask the president to be prudent or cautious vis-a-vis the Somoza regime. We know full well that, due to the office he holds and the responsibility that goes with it, the president knows that he must not forget those qualities during times of difficulty for the country. What the editorial dared to suggest was prudence and caution in his attitude toward Costa Ricans, and especially the press, so that he will continue to hold the respect and practice the moderation that has been proverbial in our rulers.

Therefore, there can be no contradiction between our editorial--which refers to a very specific, recent case of the virtual arrest of a newsman merely because he made an imprudent report--and a paid advertisement which appeared on page 27A in last Thursday's issue. In the latter, a group of Costa Ricans united within the organization known as the "Juan Santamaria Patriotic Brigades" invited people to join them in the eventual defense of national sovereignty and in giving support, which we understand to be moral support, to the cause of the Nicaraguans fighting Somoza.

The president may differ from us regarding the scope and intent of the paid advertisement. He may even consider it subversive, but what he cannot and should not do is meddle in the orientation of our newspaper, which is a free and private enterprise, to tell us what we should or should not publish. We find no signs of subversion in the said publication. If the president does, what he should do is urge the attorney general or the Interior Ministry, as the case may be, to file suit but not tell us what we should have done because this meddling, even with good intentions, is dangerous due to the level of the person who practices it.

We have not doubted that the Carazo Odio administration respects freedom of expression. What we do doubt is that respect for it is not always reconcilable with maintaining national peace and security because it is very easy, under the pretext of safeguarding those national values, to violate legal norms or shatter the de jure status the country has been experiencing since its independence.

We are deeply grateful to the president because, thanks to him, all Costa Ricans can have a peaceful and happy Christmas. In fairness to the truth, however, we must note that this is not due solely to the brilliant work of the president but also to the collective effort and will of all Costa Ricans.

If the president has been able to maintain our country's neutrality in Nicaragua's internal conflict and if he has effectively and completely prevented militias from organizing on our soil to invade a neighboring country, may God and country recognize his efforts. We have no evidence to doubt that this is so, but it must be agreed that a publication or report by a newsman is not in itself so serious as to precipitate a conflict between two countries and, while the imprudence or temerity of newsmen is criticizable or liable to legal punishment, that is not sufficient reason to stage the incident which the president did with a newsman in the wee hours of the morning and under very unusual circumstances.

As a newspaper we understand the responsibilities and duties of the president of the republic in a situation such as we are experiencing, but we are not going to remain silent concerning a procedure that is alien to our national temperament.

BRIEFS

COST OF FUEL IMPORTS--Economy Minister Fernando Altmann has reported that Costa Rica spends $300 million a year, or 37 percent of its foreign trade profits, to pay for fuel imports. Altmann said that fuel prices will be increased next year either gradually or all at once, depending on the decision of the Arab countries. [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Dec 78 PA]

MALARIA CASES REPORTED--A Health Ministry official has reported that 10 malaria cases were detected last week in San (Bueno) and San Juan Grande de Abangares as well as in Vigia, Nicoya. The cases are a result of the recent outbreak on Chira Island. [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Dec 78 PA]

EL SALVADOR

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON REQUESTS FOR SAFECONDUCTS

PA131428Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0618 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Despite the fact that the Panamanian and Venezuelan embassies have requested safeconducts for two [as received] Salvadoran citizens who have taken refuge in those embassies, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Antonio Rodriguez Porth has stated that no one is politically persecuted in El Salvador. The official was thus replying to the two embassies' requests for safeconducts for the refugees in the embassies. Actor Norman Douglas is at the Panamanian Embassy and German Vinicio Avalos Castro and Reynaldo Cruz Menjivar are at the Venezuelan Embassy. The minister said that there are no pending charges against them in the civil courts nor are they being sought by the security branches. It was said in the Foreign Ministry that if the embassies reiterate their requests the safeconducts might be granted.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry authorized the departure from the country of Francisco Baltazar Campos Mendoza, who had taken refuge in the Mexican Embassy. It was not known that he had taken asylum in the embassy or whether he had ties with political organizations.

PRESIDENT WILL NOT NEGOTIATE WITH FARN KIDNAPERS

PA140325Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0220 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 13 Dec (AFP)--Salvadoran President Carlos Humberto Romero told AFP today that his government "will not negotiate with the terrorist groups" who kidnaped four businessmen in the last few days. The president's statement came after it was reported that the Armed Forces of National Resistance [FARN] are demanding the release of political prisoners in exchange for the kidnaped businessmen.

The four businessmen are still being held by the FARN today and, despite reports that negotiations are underway to obtain their release, nothing specific has been attained, it was learned from reliable sources. Meanwhile, Romero described as lies the statements made by two British MP's who recently visited San Salvador and said upon their return to London that "a military tyranny" still exists in El Salvador. He added that he knows Amnesty International "is interested in discrediting abroad the Salvadoran people and government."

The Salvadoran president reaffirmed his confidence in his cabinet and said that a very remote possibility exists that cabinet changes will be made.

STRIKE RESOLVED AT KIDNAPED JAPANESE EXECUTIVE'S FACTORY

PA131953Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1905 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 13 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--It was reported today that a strike at the factory managed by kidnaped Japanese citizen Takakazu Suzuki ended when the company accepted the workers' demands it had previously rejected. Unofficial reports indicate that the solution of the strike was one of the conditions imposed for the release of Suzuki.

The Japanese citizen and sales manager of a joint capital textile firm was kidnaped by the Armed Forces of National Resistance on 7 December. Neither the kidnapers, the government nor the firm has disclosed the conditions for Suzuki's release. However, it has been learned that, in addition to ending the strike, the kidnapers are demanding publication of a communique in the world's major newspapers, a certain sum of money, and the release of several political prisoners.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE REJECTING UN BELIZE RULING

PA130437Y Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 7 Dec 78 p 3 PA

[Communique issued by Presidency of the Republic on 7 December 1978]

[Text] A text of the resolutions presented to the fourth UNGA Committee and the results of the voting on the Belize issue were released yesterday.

Bearing in mind that attempts are made at the United Nations to politically resolve disputes between states and, more importantly, that these attempts involve Great Britain's links with the British Commonwealth countries and its influence on other nations, the result of the voting was unfavorable to Guatemala.

Following Foreign Ministry instructions, the Guatemalan delegation acted within the framework of the government's foreign policy, as is well known in Guatemala. It defended the interests of our country with patriotism, integrity and efficiency; explained the legal, historic, geographic, political and moral arguments that justify Guatemala's legitimate claim to that part of the national territory; refuted in a noble and forceful manner the delegations who participated in the debate on the subject with mistaken viewpoints, reiterating with valid and convincing arguments the antecedents and just titles [of ownership] on which the Guatemalan claim is based; reaffirmed that the Guatemalan people and government do not recognize any UN competence to judge [para conocer] a territorial dispute which is subject to one of the peaceful methods for resolving differences between nations contained in the UN Charter--that is, direct negotiations between the interested parties; clearly established that our country does not admit any compulsory or binding effect to resolutions that overstep the United Nation's area of competence; successfully confronted the British delegation when this delegation, in a new arbitrary action, opposed the voting of a new Guatemalan draft resolution; and saved the national honor and dignity in this matter of prime importance to the fatherland.

The approved resolution is ultimately a copy of those that the UN General Assembly approved on the Belize issue in past years, although this year's resolution includes another element which demonstrates the way in which Great Britain resorts to falsifying facts to insure its interests. [paragraph continues]

It has proclaimed itself Belize's "administrative power" while the entire international community knows that neither the United Nations nor its predecessor, the League of Nations, ever granted that territory in trust or administration, as is the case with the other territories that are subject to the process of decolonization under UN auspices. It is obvious that the territory of Belize has been usurped from Guatemala by that colonialist and imperialist power through force alone. Although it is supported by only a few nations, the Guatemalan resolution shows Central America's firm and unlimited support for the just cause of the reincorporation of that part of our territory and the solidarity of countries which recognize Guatemala's rights to it.

The Guatemalan Government hereby profoundly thanks the governments that supported it at the United Nations; reiterates its legitimate rights to the territory of Belize; solemnly commits itself to the Guatemalan people to uphold the constitution, which states that Belize is part of Guatemalan territory; reaffirms its absolute rejection of the new resolution approved by the United Nations; reiterates, without following UN resolutions, that Guatemala is willing to pursue negotiations with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to find a just, legitimate, equitable, peaceful and honorable solution via direct negotiations with the people of Belize, a solution that will take into account Guatemala's unquestionable rights to that territory and the vilal interests of the Belizean population.

It assures the Guatemalan people that at all times it will act in accordance with national interests in its struggle to recover the territory of Belize, usurped by a power from outside the continent.

UNION LEADER KILLED, LAWYER WOUNDED IN TERRORIST ATTACKS

PA131658Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1619 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--New terrorist attacks in Guatemala City yesterday left a union leader dead and a lawyer seriously wounded. The two men were shot with handguns.

Pedro Quevedo y Quevedo, leader of a union in a soft drink bottling plant, was attacked by several unidentified men who shot him in the head at pointblank range. The attack occurred in Zone 19 of western Guatemala City, where the union leader was distributing soft drinks.

At 1800 (0000 GMT) in Zone 10 in the southeastern section of the capital, lawyer Leonel Castro Aceituno was shot. According to the medical report, he is in serious condition. No further details have been released regarding this attack.

Meanwhile, labor and popular organizations blamed the first attack on "businessmen who have been trying to destroy unionism through reprisals which have culminated in assassination." The National Central of Workers and the National Settlers Movement today condemned this new violent action, warning "sinister forces that with it they are not going to stop the historic development of the people's movement."

CONGRESS COMMUTES SENTENCES OF COMMON CRIMINALS

PA140107Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2314 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala, 14 Dec (AFP)--It was officially announced today that the Guatemalan Congress has decided to commute the sentences of all common criminals.

The measure, approved on the occasion of the Christmas holidays, will not benefit those prisoners sentenced for committing parricide, assassinations, rape or for engaging in drug trafficking or kidnaping. Prisoners who committed crimes before 1 December 1978 will have their sentences reduced by one third.

BRIEFS

NEW RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE CHIEF--Col Luis Federico Fuentes Corado assumed his duties as director of the Committee for National Reconstruction, replacing Brig Gen Jose Guillermo Echeverria Vielman. [Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 6 Dec 78 p 6 PA]

HONDURAS

ECONOMY MINISTER TERMS BCIE MEETING 'FRUITFUL'

PA140333Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2253 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 13 Dec (LATIN)--Honduran Economy Minister Benjamin Villanueva has described the recent meeting of governors of the Central American Bank of Economic Integration (BCIE) as one of the most positive achievements attained in the process of integration in the area in the past 10 years.

The minister said that the San Salvador meeting was very fruitful despite the abnormal situations existing in four of the five countries. We were able, he said, to refinance the bank, increasing its capital by $200 million.

Villanueva feels that in the provision of capital for the institution, the differences existing between Costa Rica and Nicaragua and between Honduras and El Salvador were overcome. Moreover, the minister said optimistically, we agreed on a special $25-million contribution to be made to the bank during the coming year.

BRIEFS

NEW AIRPORT--Tegucigalpa, 7 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--The Japanese Government will give Honduras financial and technical aid for the construction of a modern airport in Talanga Valley, 50 km northwest of this capital. The new airport will be completed in 1982 at an approximate cost of $40 million. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0037 GMT 8 Dec 78 PA]

NICARAGUA

OFFICIAL REPORTS FIGHTING NEAR BORDER ON COSTA RICAN SIDE

PA140059Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2325 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Rivas, Nicaragua, 13 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan Gen Gonzalo Evertz told this agency this afternoon that the clashes reported at the border with Costa Rica in the past few hours have taken place on Costa Rican rather than Nicaraguan territory. He added that he believes these are clashes between Costa Rican Civil Guards and Sandinist guerrillas.

According to Evertz, commander of the southern zone and of Rivas Department, "occasional but heavy" shooting has been heard here since 1000 this morning until 1600 this afternoon (from 1600 to 2200 GMT). The general believes that the clashes are the result of the Nicaraguan Sandinists' resistance to the "cleanup operation" being conducted along the border by the Costa Rican Government.

The Nicaraguan troops have not fired a single shot, but because of the shooting on the Costa Rican side of the border, they remain on alert. "We are armed to the teeth here in order to prevent any surprises," Evertz commented.

As a security measure, the border has been closed along the Penas Blancas sector and all civilians between that border point and La Virgen, located some 20 km to the north along the Panamerican Highway, have been evacuated.

The Nicaraguan general says Costa Rican Public Security Minister Juan Jose Echeverria announced today on television that some 500 Civil Guards have been sent to the border area to conduct a "cleanup operation of Sandinists." Therefore, he believes that those were the units that fought today. But, according to the Costa Rican stations, the fighting took place in an area known as La Pimienta, the same spot where Costa Rican and Nicaraguan troops clashed on 21 November in an incident that led to the break in diplomatic relations.

According to reports monitored in Nicaragua, the San Jose radio stations have attributed the gunfire to clashes between Sandinist guerrillas and Nicaraguan troops.

Shooting Continues Along Border

PA140226Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0202 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 13 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--A Nicaraguan Government source told ACAN-EFE tonight, Wednesday, that shooting continues on Costa Rican territory near the Nicaraguan border. The armed clashes are apparently occurring at a place called "Las Lomas de San Dimas" in the northwestern part of Costa Rica.

Gen Gonzalo Evertz, military chief of the Nicaraguan southern zone, previously said that he believed that fighting was due to the Sandinist guerrillas' resistance to the cleanup operation carried out by the Costa Rican Civil Guard along the border. Evertz, as well as the official who revealed the continuation of the shooting tonight, insisted that the clashes took place in Costa Rica and not in Nicaragua.

NEW GROUP OF POLITICAL PRISONERS TO BE RELEASED

PA131826Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1705 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 13 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--At least 26 persons will be released within the next 24 hours after having been in jail for several weeks or even months while being investigated for political crimes. The announcement of the prisoner release was made today in Matagalpa, 126 km north of Managua.

It has also been learned that the National Guard will vacate and return to their respective owners the private homes and Catholic churches it had occupied as improvised military posts. It was indicated that two new police precincts will be created in suburbs of Matagalpa.

Since Saturday, the government has released 77 persons who had been imprisoned for investigation into crimes against the state's internal and external security and crimes against public order. The release of the prisoners is viewed here as a first step toward a broad amnesty for political prisoners which President Somoza's government announced that it will issue within the next few days. The Chamber of Deputies will meet this afternoon to begin debating an amnesty bill which will apply to persons imprisoned from 3 March 1967 to 11 December 1978.

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES APPROVES AMNESTY BILL

PA140036Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0028 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 13 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Chamber of Deputies tonight, Wednesday, approved the bill of broad, unconditional amnesty for political prisoners which the executive sent to Congress this week.

The amnesty bill must also be approved by the Senate and signed by the president in order for it to be implemented, following publication in the official GAZETTE.

A government spokesman told ACAN-EFE that the entire parliamentary process could be completed by next Monday.

REACTION TO SOMOZA'S AMNESTY BILL NOTED

PA131238Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0120 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 12 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Managua Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo was pleased at the announcement that a general amnesty bill covering all political and related crimes will be presented to the National Congress. The announcement was made here last night by Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza.

The Catholic prelate said that the amnesty will promote harmony and peace in many Nicaraguan homes during the Christmas season. Monsignor Obando said that he had agreed to participate as an observer in the talks held between the government and the opposition through the mediating commission which, with OAS support, is trying to find a peaceful solution to the Nicaraguan political crisis.

Carlos Tunnerman Berheim, speaking for the opposition Group of 12, 6 of whom have sought asylum at the Mexican Embassy in Managua, said that the opposition should not allow the amnesty to become a pardon for military personnel who committed all kinds of abuses and crimes against the defenseless civilian population during the September fighting. Tunnerman, former National University rector, was interviewed from Costa Rica. He emphasized that these crimes have been proved and internationally condemned by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission.

The amnesty should be discussed in public. Microphones and television cameras should be taken to Congress so that the people can understand its real meaning and will not be deceived, Conservative Deputy Jose Medina Cuadra said. He said the bill is the result of the demand raised throughout Nicaragua for the suspension of military repression against the people. The opposition congressman added that the opposition is working to rescue the Nicaraguan community from the chaotic situation in which the Somozist dictatorship has sunk it.

Many observers believe that the amnesty will be an escape valve for the explosive political situation that has prevailed in the country during this year marked by violence, death and suffering. However, opposition sectors warn that a stronger attitude should be adopted toward the Somoza regime and that the opposition must unite to form a single bloc of all anti-Somoza groups.

The warning was intended for the Broad Opposition Front [FAO] in the belief that it has weakened before the pressure of the international mediating commission. This weakening has created disagreements among the Group of 12, the Union of Nicaraguan Workers and the Independent Liberal Party, which has also threatened to leave the FAO.

On the other hand, the United People's Movement, which links all the Nicaraguan leftist organizations, is maintaining its decision to support revolutionary struggle as the only means to overthrow the Somoza regime without the benefit of dialog or deals.

SOMOZA DISCUSSES U.S. STAND ON CRISIS, PIEBISCITE

PA140316Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2339 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 13 Dec (LATIN)--According to Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle, his enmity with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez is old. He also stressed the similarity between his ideals and those of the southern cone military regimes. Somoza made these statements in an interview granted to Chilean journalist Ximena Ortuzar, which was published here today by the Mexican weekly INTERVIU.

Somoza told Ortuzar that his enmity with Perez is ancient history, dating back to the days when both were 24 years old: He [Perez] collaborated with (former Venezuelan President) Romulo Betancourt, and I with my father (Gen Anastasio Somoza Garcia).

Somoza also accused Mexican Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel of being an old enemy: I have known that for a long time through mutual friends.

Regarding the similarities between the Nicaraguan regime and those of Argentina, Paraguay and Chile, the president affirmed that we are all fighting to establish anticommunist and democratic governments and peoples in Latin America. He added that the difference is that, of the four, only two have been popularly elected. This was a reference to his own administration and that of Paraguayan President Gen Alfredo Stroessner.

Somoza then described Costa Rica's democratic regime as ideal, but he stated that in the case of Nicaragua, democracy cannot be forcefully imposed on the people.

Referring to the plebiscite proposed by the international mediation commission in seeking a peaceful solution to the Nicaraguan crisis, the president said that he would obtain 60 percent of the votes because the people support and defend him. He went on to say that those attacking him are from the rightwing: They are right, of course; we have been in power for 40 years and we are rich.

According to Somoza, the Inter-American Human Rights Commission's recent report is biased. He also claimed that those who drafted it are, in one way or another, opposed to the Somoza regime.

Regarding the U.S. position on the crisis that has rocked Nicaragua since the beginning of this year, the president affirmed that U.S. President Jimmy Carter does not want him to be overthrown violently. Therefore, Somoza added, if he is not helping them overthrow me, it could be said that he supports me.

In response to a question by Ortuzar on the support he would receive in event of an attack, Somoza responded: It would depend on who is attacking me. If a state attacks me, I would request the aid of all the Latin American states. If it is a revolutionary attack, then I would have to handle the problem myself.

When Ortuzar insisted on hearing Somoza's reaction to a hypothetical victory by the opposing Sandinist National Liberation Front, Somoza responded in English: I don't play games. He added: You do not know to whom you are speaking.

SANDINIST FRONT ANNOUNCES BREAK WITH FAO

PA131920Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1852 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 13 Dec (AFP)--A split between the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] and the Broad Opposition Front [FAO] was announced here today.

The FSLN released a statement criticizing the FAO's members "who are lending themselves to the political maneuver, and we call upon all honest elements in the FAO to break with the mediators from the United States, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala and with those who are promoting the improperly named [mal llamado] plebiscite."

The statement is contained in a document delivered today to foreign correspondents in this capital. It is signed by Eden Pastora, (Commander Cero) chief of the Sandinist army, as well as by the FSLN board consisting of Daniel Ortega, Victor Tirado and Humberto Ortega.

The document says that "the Sandinist insurrection will triumph over Somoza." It adds that "the amnesty is an ironic measure by Somoza because it is granted by those who killed many people in September."

FSLN COMMUNIQUE RAPS U.S. INTERVENTION

PA122009Y San Jose Radio Monumental in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Dec 78 PA

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] today sent a new communique to EFE's editorial office in Barcelona charging that the United States is seeking to curb the Nicaraguan people's struggle through intervention. The communique was received directly by telephone from somewhere in Nicaragua. It was sent by the FSLN's permanent representative in Europe.

The communique, signed by the front's leaders and general staffs, denounces the interventionist maneuvers of U.S. imperialism before all democratic and popular forces. It states that an attempt is being made through the so-called mediation commission, composed of representatives of the Guatemalan, Dominican and U.S. governments, to curb the struggle being waged by the Nicaraguan people against Somoza's dictatorship through political maneuvers to achieve Somozism without Somoza.

TUNNERMAN ACCUSES SOMOZA OF PLOTTING AGAINST GROUP OF 12

PA131944Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Interview with 'Group of 12' member Carlos Tunnerman in Costa Rica; date not given--recorded]

[Text] [Tunnerman] I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to announce, as a member of the Group of 12, that we have received reliable reports that in Nicaragua Somoza is organizing an operation against us--that is, an attempt against members of the Group of 12. This operation in military circles and in Nicaraguan security circles has been codenamed "Operation Apostle." Two high-ranking militarymen, whose names we have obtained, have been entrusted with directing the operation. It is to be executed through elements of the Nicaraguan Mafia, and they are even prepared to contract members of the Mafia in other countries to attack us wherever we may be. We know this operation is underway and we are even able to announce that a member of the Nicaraguan Mafia contracted by the military in this operation had already moved to San Jose, Costa Rica.

But since we already had the information--we were informed of it--we denounced it and that individual was deported, was taken out of this country by the Costa Rican authorities.

It appears, then, that a preconceived plan exists, aimed at attacking us because, as members of the Group of 12, we are staunchly denouncing all the maneuvers being carried out, even with the blessing of the mediating commission, which in the end only confirms the intention to strengthen the Somoza regime in Nicaragua.

[Question] Don Carlos, who is this element of the Mafia who was deported to Nicaragua?

[Answer] Look, we even know that his name is Reinaldo Palacio Miranda. He is about 26 years old and he took part in a bank robbery in Nicaragua, passing himself off as a member of the Sandinist Front. Later, when he was captured, he remained in jail only a few days. Shortly after, he came out and took asylum in the Mexican Embassy in order to pass himself off as a political exile. But all this was discovered. Later, he traveled from Mexico to San Salvador and from Salvador here, to San Jose. But by then we had already discovered what his intentions were and how he fit in with this operation, which has been named "Operation Apostle," against the Group of 12.

[Question] When did this happen in Costa Rica?

[Answer] Last week.

[Question] Exactly what day?

[Answer] I cannot give you the exact day because I had to go on a trip to countries in the south during those days. But I was told that this person, just as we expected, had arrived in this country, that he was captured and later deported to Nicaragua.

I would also like to avail myself of this opportunity to mention a reference to myself made by a Nicaraguan political leader in last night's LA PRENSA since I know very well that Radio Reloj news is heard over there in Managua. He says that I should be making statements in Managua and not here in San Jose, Costa Rica. This opposition leader is Dr Cordova Rivas. In reality, I think that one can also contribute to the liberation cause of one's country even by working abroad, because our group has internal and external work to do. Therefore, I am carrying out a mission which I also consider to be important.

FSLN ISSUES WAR BULLETIN ON RECENT ACTIVITIES

PA131800Y San Jose Radio Monumental in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Eduardo Enrique Leiva report]

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] has reported that Sandinist activities have been intensified throughout Nicaraguan territory in the past few days.

It was reported that on the Camilo Ortega Central Front guerrilla squadrons ambushed Somozist guard patrols in the neighborhoods of Managua, Masaya and Carazo.

In the west, the Rigoberto Lopez Perez Sandinist Front squads took over neighborhoods in the cities of Leon [Department], harassing National Guard patrols carrying out repressive work in the area.

Perhaps the most resounding Sandinist Front action took place on the Northern Carlos Fonseca Amador Front. Revolutionary columns operating in the vicinity of Esteli occupied the town of Achuapa, recovering weapons and causing National Guard casualties. It was reported that a Somoza guard convoy composed of two trucks and a jeep was ambushed. The troops were killed and their weapons taken.

Violent clashes have also taken place in (Maic), (El Gualdo) and San Luis and in Neuva Segovia Department. As a result of these clashes, an air force plane was downed, killing several National Guardsmen as it hit the ground. Two helicopters were also downed. The exact number of casualties suffered by the Somoza army are still not known. The army reports only the deaths and injuries of Sandinists.

The Sandinist war bulletin reported that the repression conducted by Somoza's land and air forces has taken a large toll of innocent victims--more than 50. The National Guard's Legal and Public Relations Office, headed by Col Aquiles Aranda Escobar, has maintained strict silence regarding all the Sandinist operations.

It was also reported that on the Southern Benjamin Zeledon Front in the San Juan River area ambushes and harassment operations by Sandinist forces compelled the guard to suspend surveillance and patrolling of the river.

The 13th Column operating between the Zabalos and Cardenas rivers on 8 December took over Los Sabalos farm, owned by Lillian Somoza de Seveilla Sacasa, and burned it.

On 9 December, while ambushing a 50-man patrol operating in the area, Cmdr Gaspar Garcia Laviana, member of the Southern Benjamin Zeledon Front general staff, died in combat. Three Sandinist combatants died along with him and three others were injured during a clash that lasted 1 hour and 25 minutes.

On the National Guard side, more than a dozen casualties were reported but the exact number has not been determined. The guard has not disclosed it either.

The war bulletin was signed by army chief Eden Pastora and other ranking members of the Sandinist army general staff.

NATIONAL GUARD MAJOR KILLED DURING ATTACK IN MANAGUA

PA131408Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0516 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 12 Dec (AFP)--A National Guard major was killed and a deputy and another civilian were wounded during an attack perpetrated by four unidentified youths last night, the police have reported.

The victims were Maj Juan Ramon Bermudez, attached to the Managua police, Deputy Oscar Moncada (of the ruling Liberal Party) and a civilian whose identity is unknown. All of them were in a gambling house west of this capital which was attacked by the youths. One of the youths was apparently wounded during the shootout following the attack.

According to initial reports, the four assailants entered the house and held some 20 persons there at gunpoint. The victims were gambling in a private room.

The National Guard immediately launched a large-scale operation to find the attackers. Homes and vehicles near the gambling house were searched and exits to the highway were placed under surveillance.

Further Report on Officer's Death

PA140203Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2355 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Text] The authorities are investigating the brutal assassination last night of National Guard Maj Juan Ramon Bermudez.

Four men, who identified themselves as members of the Sandinist Front, attacked Maj Juan Ramon Bermudez, an honorable officer, while he was in a shop talking to Oscar Moncada Reyes and Luis Estrada. The men quickly opened fire on the officer, who was shot five times. His friends were also wounded, although not seriously.

While good-willed Nicaraguans are trying to channel the situation along the paths of peace and harmony, the elements of subversion are plotting new crimes. This confirms that the Nicaraguan people should seek unity in order to support as firmly as possible the actions of the authorities, whose duty is to prosecute criminals.

The fact that these criminals do not accept the broad amnesty decree which the chamber began discussing today shows their true intentions toward the Nicaraguan people.

MDN CLAIMS U.S. TO RENEW FINANCIAL AID TO SOMOZA

PA131221Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0347 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Dec (EFE)--The Mexican office of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement (MDN) stated here today that the United States will renew financial aid to Gen Anastasio Somoza's regime this month. The MDN states in a communique signed by Alberto Icaza Balladares and sent to EFE's office in Mexico that Nicaraguans who have arrived from Miami provided this information to the MDN.

The communique notes that Alberto Duclauy Guillen, an aide of Raymond Molina--who has been identified as President Somoza's quesiofficial representative in the United States--is the person who provided this information. According to the MDN, Molina, who is the son-in-law of former Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista, secured approval for U.S. help with the support of "rightwing" Democratic congressmen.

The MDN communique states: This could make the negotiations on the establishment of "a popular and democratic government" and the mediation effort of other nations "to secure an honorable and lasting peace in Nicaragua" fail

SENATE APPROVES BILL ON FUND TRANSFER

PA131804Y Managua NOVEDADES in Spanish 7 Dec 78 pp 2, 25 PA

[Text] After changing locations yesterday, the Senate approved a bill authorizing the executive to transfer a total of 139,702,022,30 [figure as received] cordobas. In view of repairs being made to the sound system in the National Palace, the session was held at the home of Senate President Pablo Rener Valle.

The bill faced the (naturally, already expected) opposition of the Conservative wing, on behalf of which Senators Humberto Chamorro, Edmundo Paguaga Irias and Julio Icaza Tijerino spoke.

Although the bill itself explains the need to make the transfers of funds, the Conservative speakers, with equal shortsightedness, wanted to hear a justification for the measure.

Bent on portraying the national army as benefitting most from the transfers, Senator Chamorro Chamorro cited the case of certain military barriers erected at the gateway to his city, Granada, and attacked the military authorities, forgetting that the smallest transfer allocated to the army is intended precisely to facilitate the restoration of peace in the republic and erect the barriers which bother the senator so much.

Apparently suffering from sudden amnesia, Senator Chamorro did not recall that scarcely 4 months ago, erecting the barriers (we trust his word that they are there), an absolutely logical and necessary measure for the security of the city and its inhabitants, would have been entirely unnecessary. Senators Paguaga Irias and Icaza Tijerino followed suit.

Young Senator Luis Molina Rivera patiently provided the justification requested by the Conservative wing. Molina Rivera explained the problems that the treasury is facing to pay the 13th month bonus [decimo-tercer mes] to all workers, an allocation which was not foreseen when the current budget was drawn up. He also cited the need to implement a special system to bolster the revenue service, which is often evaded by taxpayers.

Regarding the housing bank, which benefited from the transfers and against which Senator Icaza Tijerino was especially harsh, Senator Molina Rivera said that, despite Senator Icaza Tijerino's ideas, "the BANIC [Nicaraguan Central Bank] should not die. We cannot let an institution which is operating and which has many commitments die. I think it is necessary that we aid it."

Senator Molina Rivera also included Las Mercedes International Airport in the transfer for the Defense Ministry. "The airport, which is the main gateway into our country, should be at least on a par with other Central American airports," he said.

However, at the heart of his remarks was his reference to the National Guard, key target of Conservative attack. "The guard was calm in its garrisons, but along came provocation. A group of fanatics unleashed subversion, and the army was compelled to spend perhaps more than it had budgeted to crack down on them. If we take into consideration that, according to certain reports, the upkeep of the communist guerrillas in Costa Rica is costing the 'pittance' of $50,000 a day (350,000 cordobas), the transfer requested for our army, defender of the goods and property of Nicaraguans, is actually minimal. For these and many other reasons, I ask that the bill on the transfer be approved," Molina Rivera concluded.

The bill was finally approved by a majority vote.

BRIEFS

COFFEE RUST ERADICATION CAMPAIGN--After making an analysis of the results of the coffee rust eradication campaign, the Agriculture Ministry reported that there were 54-percent fewer outbreaks of the disease during November compared to the same period in 1977. This shows the efficient results of the campaign which will be maintained until the complete eradication of the disease. [Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0345 GMT 12 Dec 78 PA]

COMMENTARY DWELLS ON ALLEGED U.S. RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

FL140239Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Dec 78 FL

[Carlos Mora Herman commentary]

[Text] The massive and constant violations of human rights in the United States was denounced by hundreds of demonstrators who met yesterday at the United Nations in New York to deliver a 150-word statement in which they detail many of these violations. The document which was delivered at the international organization by the black lawyer (Lennox Hines), in the name of three large organizations which are struggling for these rights, coincided yesterday with the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights promulgated by the United Nations in 1948.

The statement details more than 40 cases of North American political prisoners representing the situation of thousands who are jailed. Among the 40 are the Wilmington 10; the Puerto Rican nationalists Lolita Lebron, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Irving Flores and Oscar Collazo; members of the American Indian Movement, Russel Means and Dennis Banks; and the black, John Harris [word indistinct], who is condemned to death. In many of these cases those held have been subjected to police persecution, false accusations, imprisonment and bad treatment. On the other hand, thousands of North American citizens are constantly subjected to selective application of police law and penal systems for the simple fact of having been born black, Puerto Rican, Mexican, Indian or just for being poor.

The North American communist newspaper, DAILY WORLD, has criticized President Jimmy Carter for refusing to receive a copy of this document delivered by (Lennox) at the United Nations. The DAILY WORLD says that the thousands of people who signed the document called on the Washington government to renounce its bellicose plans and to promote social programs to assure employment, education, public health, pensions and other benefits for the people.

The commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed by the United Nations points out the hypocrisy and cynicism of a government which calls for respecting rights which it persistently violates inside and outside the country. The United States is a country in which CIA agents and collaborators systematically violate human rights--listening in on telephone conversations, joining social organizations, breaking into homes, opening private mail and experimenting with dangerous drugs on human beings, as was recently revealed.

It is a country in which the drug market reaches annual sales approaching 48 billion, where 70 percent of adolescents drink alcohol, and of these 1 million from the age of 9 years. It is a country which annually has 5,000 suicides among children between the ages of 5 and 14 years old, and where almost 50 percent of its youth take drugs on a regular basis and 25 percent of all arrests for various crimes are of youths. It is a country in which youth unemployment approaches 16.3 percent and 35 percent among black youths, and where the level of general unemployment reaches almost 11 million citizens. Malaise and discontent grows and shows itself even in sectors of the ruling party itself. It is believed that President Jimmy Carter has not fulfilled a large part of the promises he made during his electoral campaign. The federal deficit is $40 billion, which he is trying to reduce to $30 billion by 1980, but he is putting the burden of this reduction on the backs of the poorer classes of the country. Carter is obligated by the powerful military-industrial complex to constantly reduce the budget for social expenditures while increasing military spending.

A country whose government does not guarantee the right to work, education and health cannot speak about human rights. In the United States there are 23 million functional illiterates, people whose knowledge does not satisfy the minimum requirements of daily life. Five million children of school age do not go to school, and three million do not even finish fifth year studies. It is a country in which the right to life is always in danger because of the high crime rate, attacks, robberies, and rapes. It is a country which throughout its history has sent troops to trample on the human rights of Latin Americans, Asians, Africans and Europeans. Because of all this Carter should not speak about human rights, because it is like talking about a noose in the house of a person condemned to be hanged.

ECONOMIC TALKS WITH FRENCH END; DOCUMENT SIGNED

FL131143Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Dec 78 FL

[Text] The final document on the results of the fourth meeting of the French-Cuban economic and industrial mixed commission was signed in Paris after 2 days of talks between delegations from the two countries. The document reflects the principal aspects of the development of economic relations between the two countries, as provided for by an accord signed in 1975, and projects of interest to the two sides. The importance of signing a contract by which Cuba acquires an industrial plant for the manufacture of paper with sugarcane bagasse is also noted in the document.

The document was signed by French Foreign Trade Minister Jean-Francois Deniau and Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister president of the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation.

IRAQI REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL LEADER ARRIVES IN HAVANA

FL132246 [Editorial Report FL] Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish at 2212 GMT on 13 December carries black-and-white live coverage of the arrival ceremony at Havana's Jose Marti International Airport for Saddam Husayn at-Tikriti, vice chairman of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council, who is visiting Cuba at the invitation of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

MILITARY DELEGATION FROM IRAQ LEAVES FOR HOME

FL131859Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Dec 78 FL

[Text] An Iraqi military delegation which has visited our country headed by Brig Gen (Tareq Shukri), director general of troop training, has left to return to his country. Div Gen Senen Casas Regueiro, first vice minister-chief of the General Staff, and other generals and top officers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces--FAR--bid them farewell at Jose Marti International Airport.

SPANISH DELEGATION TO DISCUSS TRADE AGREEMENT

FL121257Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Dec 78 FL

[Text] A Spanish official delegation headed by Juan Arenas Curia, director general of the Spanish Commerce and Tourism Ministry's exports department, has arrived in our country to begin talks at the technical level on a new trade agreement between the two countries.

ANGOLAN BANK GOVERNOR VISITS SANTIAGO DE CUBA

FL132118Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2107 GMT 13 Dec 78 FL

[Text] A delegation headed by Carlos Victor de Carvalho, governor of the Angolan national bank, has met in Santiago de Cuba with members of the national bank directorate in that province. During the meeting the delegation, which includes national officials of the Angolan bank, was interested in the provincial organization [of the bank] and its working relations with the central and branch offices, agencies and enterprises, as well as with cadre training. The delegation also discussed organizational matters of the Angolan bank and expressed satisfaction with the exchange of experiences between the two institutions.

The Angolan delegation has visited the historic museums of Maceo's home and the clandestine struggle. During its stay in the cradle of the revolution, it will visit the Siboney farm, the 26 July museum and the museum on piracy.

DELEGATION MEETS GUYANA'S PNC LEADERSHIP

FL111959Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1913 GMT 11 Dec 78 FL

[Text] A delegation from the PCC is in Georgetown, Guyana, as part of an exchange program with the ruling People's National Congress party and to discuss topics of mutual interest. The Cuban delegation is headed by Ulises Estrada, deputy chief of the PCC Central Committee America Department. The visitors met with Malcolm Harris, member of the secretariat of the Guyanese party. In addition, they delivered a lecture on the present political juncture in the Latin American continent to a group of Guyanese women, youth and trade union party cadres. The Cuban party delegation met with Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson, with whom they discussed topics dealing with the upcoming summit of the nonalined countries.

Activities Reported

FL131453Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1429 GMT 13 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Guyanese Prime Minister Forbes Burnham, leader of the governing People's National Congress party, has received a PCC delegation which has been visiting that country for the past week. During the talks the current international situation and the bilateral relations between the two parties were discussed. The Cuban delegation, headed by Ulises Estrada, deputy chief of the PCC Central Committee America Department, conveyed greetings to the Guyanese leader from Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, which were reciprocated by Burnham. Ulises Estrada explained to the Guyanese leader the preparations being made for the sixth nonalined countries summit.

ROCA, MACHADO VENTURA CHAIR MEETING OF MARXIST-LENINISTS

FL131241Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Dec 78 FL

[Text] In Havana City, PCC Politburo members Blas Roca and Jose Ramon Machado Ventura have presided at a meeting of two generations of Marxist-Leninists, one group composed of founders of the Communist Youth League--which commemorates its 50th anniversary--and the other of members of the national bureau of the Union of Young Communists [UJC].

The opening remarks were made by Luis Orlando Dominguez, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the UJC National Committee, who referred to the importance of the meeting and noted the merits of those youths who 50 years ago founded the Communist Youth League. For his part, people's government National Assembly President Blas Roca termed as a meritorious event the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Communist Youth League and noted the importance of studying the past, our glorious history of struggle. Blas Roca stated that today's youths have in their favor having the leadership and orientation of a leader such as Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

The ceremony was also attended by Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, Flavio Bravo, Fabio Grobart and Secundino Guerra, all members of the PCC Central Committee.

INDER LEADER MEETS WITH PANAMANIAN COUNTERPART

FL131431Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1415 GMT 13 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Jorge Garcia Bango, president of the Cuban National Institute of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation [INDER], has met with Panamanian sports director Rene Gonzalez in Panama City During a 4-day visit to that country. The two sports leaders discussed the possibility of increasing relations between the two institutions. The Cuban delegation toured various sports centers in Panama City.

TEXT GIVEN OF COMMUNIQUE ON MALMIERCA'S AFGHANISTAN VISIT

For the text of the communique on Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca's visit to Afghanistan 21-26 November, see the South Asia section of the 14 December Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT.

BRIEFS

SUGAR HARVEST NEWS--Ciego de Avila has become the country's second province to have all its sugar mills producing sugar for the current harvest. The first one was Pinar del Rio. There now are more than 100 active sugar mills and, in coming days, the remainder will join in until reaching a total of 148. On 10 December the active sugar mills met the national grinding norm by 91 percent. Out of that total, 74 reported more than 85 percent fulfillment, while the other 28 operated at less than 85 percent. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Dec 78 FL]

ALEJO CARPENTIER IN SPAIN--The great Cuban novelist, Alejo Carpentier, has arrived in Madrid, Spain, where he will be a member of the jury of the Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra prize, which he won last year. On arrival at Madrid's airport from Paris, a group of newsmen posed several questions which he answered. Among his responses, Carpentier said that the Cuban revolution, which will soon mark its 20th anniversary, can prepare to commemorate its 50th anniversary. He added: The 1917 Russian revolution has marked its 20th and also its 60th anniversaries. The same thing will happen in Cuba because, historically, it is impossible that a revolution, which has the support of the immense majority of the people who have been loyal and defended it, should suffer the least setback after 20 years of support and repeated successes. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Dec 78 FL]

BOLIVIA

LEFTISTS REACT TO PRESIDENT PADILLA'S AFP INTERVIEW

PY132121Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2047 GMT 13 Dec 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 13 Dec (AFP)--President David Padilla's remarks to AFP here yesterday caused a political explosion among Bolivian leftists. Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz, top leader of the Socialist Party (PS), stated today that the armed forces must defend a government legally elected by the people, regardless of communist participation, and they must not fear foreign opinion on that legitimate point. Padilla had said in his remarks that a government with communist participation in Bolivia could elicit adverse reaction from some neighboring countries.

The political committee of the Democratic and Popular Unity Front (FUDP) expressed its concern over the scope of the president's remarks and called for a special meeting of all its members to study them, it was confirmed by this political organization.

ECUADOR

ABDON CALDERON'S DAUGHTER APPOINTED PARTY LEADER

PA140346Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0131 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Guayaquil, Ecuador, 13 Dec (AFP)--Economist Cecilia Calderon de Castro has assumed the post of national director of the Alfarist Radical Front party and promised to continue the struggle for "the reestablishment of democracy, the creation of social justice and the exposure of immoral persons who are the predators of past regimes."

The new party leader replaces her father, Abdon Calderon, who died last Saturday following a criminal attack on 29 November. The party's representative assembly appointed 28-year-old Cecilia de Castro to head the party. She is a tax code professor at the Catholic university.

The party's political sectors say that she will be a candidate for the national representatives chamber, whose members will be elected on 8 April.

PERU

ECONOMY MINISTER REPORTS WAGE INCREASES IN 1979

PY121339Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Economy and Finance Minister Javier Silva Ruete remarked that a general wage and salary increase will be implemented in 1979 and that a substantial reduction in the inflation rate will also be achieved which will be a great help for low income sectors. The wage and salary readjustments will be announced as soon as the national budget has been approved.

Silva also stated that a loan agreement has been signed with the Andean reserve fund and he repeated that doors are open to foreign investment in Peru.

He also indicated that foreign debt payments to be made by the future constitutional government will [words indistinct] normally.